

STEM reaches for root of education

By Brandon Neal

"I think this is the most exciting thing to happen to Shelton in a long time. It is an incredible opportunity for our students," said Dean of Instructional Services at Shelton State Camille Cochrane.

Cochrane is the "principle investigator" of Shelton State's STEM grant: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

STEM is potentially a nearly \$2.5 million grant awarded in May to Shelton State Community College from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NSF gives the STEM to Historically Black Colleges and Universities to raise the number of minority students who enter STEM

STEM fellow Maya Moss tries out her new laptop as Dean Camille Cochrane looks on.



disciplines.

Shelton State is an HBCU through its C.A. Fredd Campus. According to Shelton State's website, "The C. A. Fredd Campus of Shelton State Community College maintains ... the specific HBCU mission of promoting educational access and opportunity for all students in a culturally diverse community."

Eddie L. Martin, NSF STEM Project Coordinator said, "The STEM Institute will be housed on C.A. Fredd Campus; renovations are currently being made." The STEM is working with 26 high schools in Tuscaloosa, Sumter, Greene, Pickens, and Hale County and will be introduced to high school freshmen. STEM Institute students will

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A Wry Eye... on politics Davis learns dangers of Internet-age politicking

By Ryan Phillips

After the election of President Barack Obama, the word "change" can be seen almost anywhere you look, especially in politics.



Rep. Artur Davis at
shelton State
for graduation.

This is the angle U.S. Rep. Artur Davis, of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, is taking in his bid for the governor's office in 2010.

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All the joys and challenges of community theatre could be seen in *The Sound of Music*

The response to Theatre Tuscaloosa's summer production of *The Sound of Music* was rapturous.

Besides the rave reviews in newspapers, the buzz in Tuscaloosa during its two-week run was enough to drown out everything else.

So how is Theatre Tuscaloosa doing now? Is



Lisa Waldrop
as Maria
and Jeff Procter
as Capt.
von
Trapp
knocked
'em dead
in *The
Sound of
Music*.

one of the state premier arts organization on firm footing after its smash hit? Director Tina Fitch laughed when the *Courier* put the question to her. Apparently, arts organizations are *never* on firm financial footing...

"We knew *Sound of Music* was going to be a hit when we picked it," Fitch explained.

"But that is not the end of the story. We were still overwhelmed by the audience response. Word-of-mouth of the quality of this show caused us to sell-out almost every performance.

"We made over \$7,000 above the projected income

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be called STEM Fellows.

STEM Fellows must be recent high school graduates with a 2.8 grade point average or better and score 20 or above on the ACT. Applicants must submit a 300-word essay, and letters of recommendation from principals, high school counselors, and science or mathematics teachers. Fellows will receive a scholarship that will provide a

STEM fellow to graduate in two years with an Associate's degree while following a science, technology, engineering or mathematics course of study.

STEM Fellow Allison Osuma, graduate of Holt High, said her experience has been great. STEM has given her an introduction to college and she has met many helpful people. "I want to focus on science and math and I think this program will help me achieve that goal," Osuma said.

Payne said. He plans to attend The University of Alabama after completing the STEM.

Maya Moss, graduate of Paul W Bryant High, heard about the STEM from T.J. Smith, a recruiting counselor for Shelton State. "This is just a wonderful opportunity," Moss said.

Titisha Kelley, Hillcrest High graduate, heard about the program through her school counselor.

Students are currently working on a "global warm-

ing" investigation. Fellows have visited Mercedes Benz, Huntsville Space Center, McWane Science Center in Birmingham and The University of Alabama, and have other field trips planned.

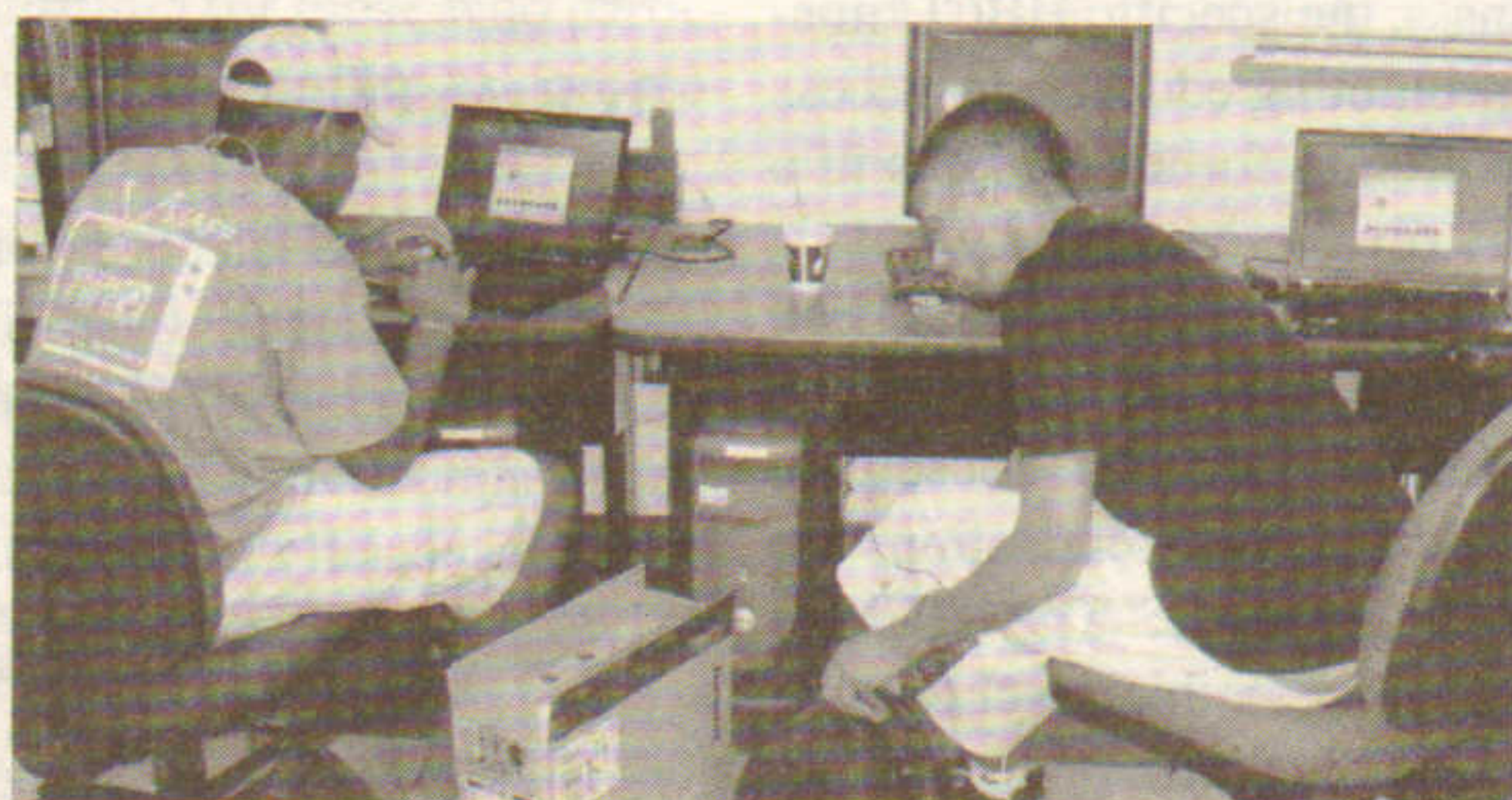
STEM fellow Haleigh Kelley said, "It's a lot of fun. We don't have to sit in the same place for a long time. It makes the time go by real fast." Kelley has a tentative plan for the future: "I plan to go into industrial engineering," she said.

Fellow Cody Osmer

commented, "I just always liked math and science and last year I went to a program at the University of Alabama. I want to go into mechanical engineering."

Channing Howington, Director of Instructional Services at Shelton State, explained that "The students are taking four hours here this semester—and working on a math preparation."

"They all seem to be having a great time, making new friends and making real progress," Howington said.

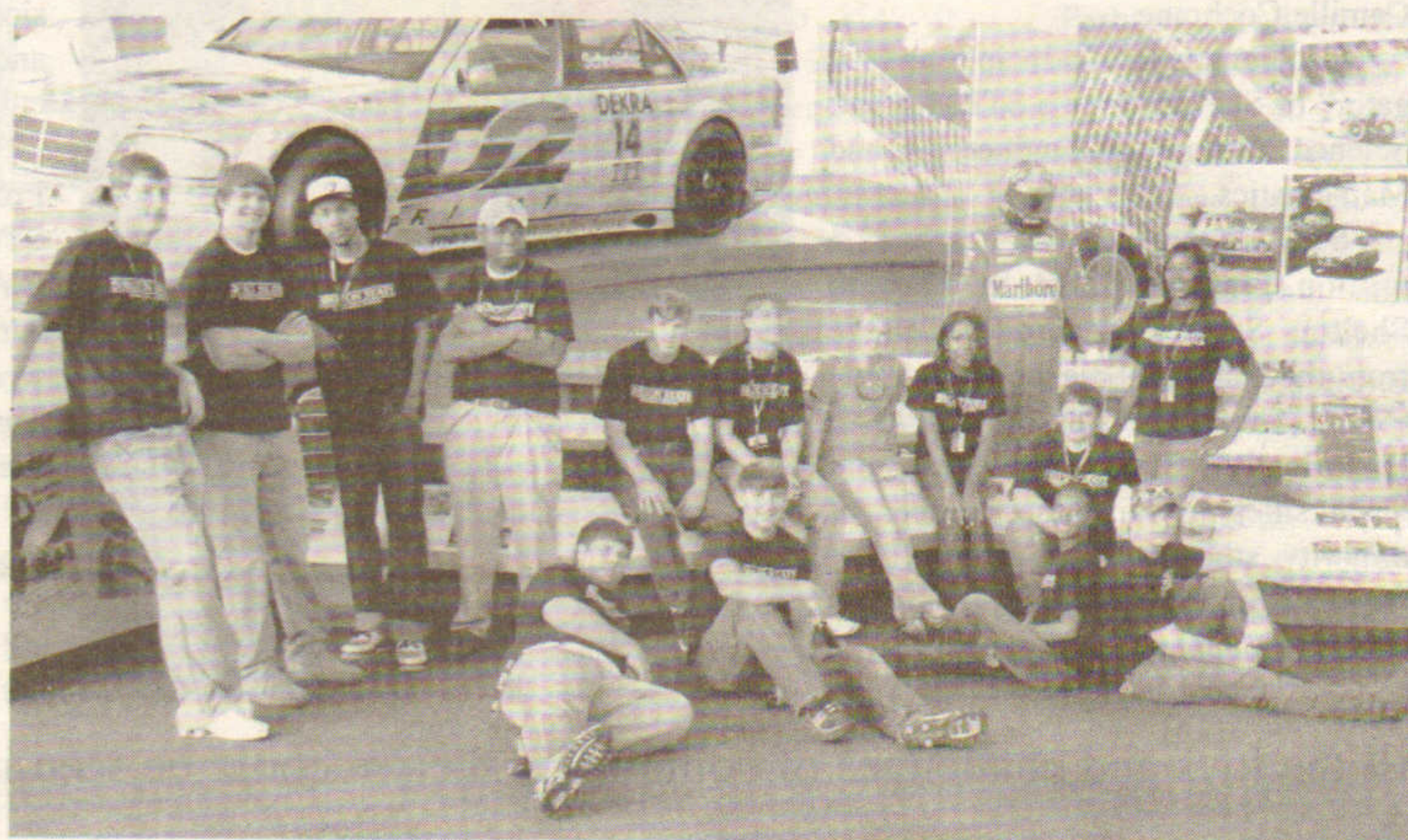


Cornelius Johnson (L) and Justin Long break out their new hardware as part of the STEM program..

\$300 monthly stipend, a laptop computer, tuition and fees, books and other materials. Each STEM Fellow will also have a mentor from the faculty and staff of the college.

The goal of Shelton's STEM Institute is for each

Another STEM Fellow, Will Payne, who heard about the STEM from a friend, has been interested in science, technology, and math since age 15. He enjoys the program, and is anxiously awaiting his monthly stipend. "I want to major in biology,"



All of Shelton State's STEM fellow toured Mercedes Benz on a field trip. Fellows have also visited the Huntsville Space Center, McWane Science Center in Birmingham and The University of Alabama.

The Shelton State Courier is brought to its readers by the academic and extracurricular programs of Shelton State Community College.

Shelton State Courier

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Members of
MCM-102 Class

Publisher
Dr. Jim Kenny

The Shelton State Courier is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among its functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working

with the students in the production of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The Courier is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

Student shares experience and views of the Middle East

By Deondra Horton

American troops are engaged in combat every day in Afghanistan. Hundreds of thousands of American troops have recently stood down from cities in Iraq. U.S. Navy warships and Air force fighter planes roam the Arabian Peninsula daily. One might ask, why? Why are American military servicemen and women constantly being put in harm's way? Maybe the

But its stifling nature has symbolic significance as well.

I remember manning the MK-19 Grenade Launcher while conducting guard duty in a far-off Patriot Missile site positioned outside of Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

On that summer's day, the temperature reached a soaring record of 133 degrees. As I looked into the vast area which looked like a desert wilderness, I wondered in my consciousness, why am

one.

I arrived at a remote military landing strip located in the heart of Saudi Arabia on April 19, 1997. I was a part of Arabian Fury, the codename for our military operation.

As a member of the 1st Battalion, 7th Air defense Artillery Brigade, our mission was to provide tactical air defense for the country of Kuwait and neighboring Saudi Arabia from the hostile forces of Saddam Hussein. In August of 1990, Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait. Immediately, U.S. and Coalition troops were deployed to South West Asia to liberate the people of Kuwait and to secure the oil fields. President George H.W. Bush and his administration recognized that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait posed a direct threat to the security of Saudi Arabia and the interests of all advanced economies.

We must briefly revisit 1944 in our historical imagination. A senior American official stated then, "The oil in this region is the greatest single prize in all history." The importance of that single statement is so paramount to the U.S./Saudi relationship. Saudi Arabia is the largest oil producer in the World; they have nearly 265 billion barrels of oil in reserves. That's nearly more than Kuwait, Iraq, and Iran's oil reserves combined.

America is the largest oil consuming country in the World; we consume nearly 20 million barrels of oil per day. This is the most basic busi-

ness formula, supply and demand. Saudi has an immense supply of oil and we demand it!

The marriage between America and Saudi Arabia has an 80-year history which is bound by oil, money, weapons, and power. But from the ground level what kind of effect does this have on our troops?

Sergeant Nicole Bryant is a current student at Shelton State Community College; she was a member of the 3rd Forward Support Battalion from Fort Stewart, Ga. She was deployed to Balad, Iraq from January 2005 till February 2006. When asked about her feelings toward being deployed to the Middle East she said, "I feel it's not our country so why are our lives, time and money being invested?"

SPC Bryant also felt as though her experience abroad helped her realize that some things in life shouldn't be taken for granted, because there are others who don't have the things that are common to most Americans; to them such things are a luxury.

To compliment SPC Bryant's feelings, Staff Sergeant Shirley Erilus expressed her feelings about being deployed as, "I am grateful for the little things in life. I am more grateful for my kids. I appreciate my life more. Being able to take a shower and eat food whenever I want to is wonderful. The kids over there are living in a one bedroom house with like 10 people to a family, sleep-

ing on a mattress or the floor. The kids over there are not promised a tomorrow."

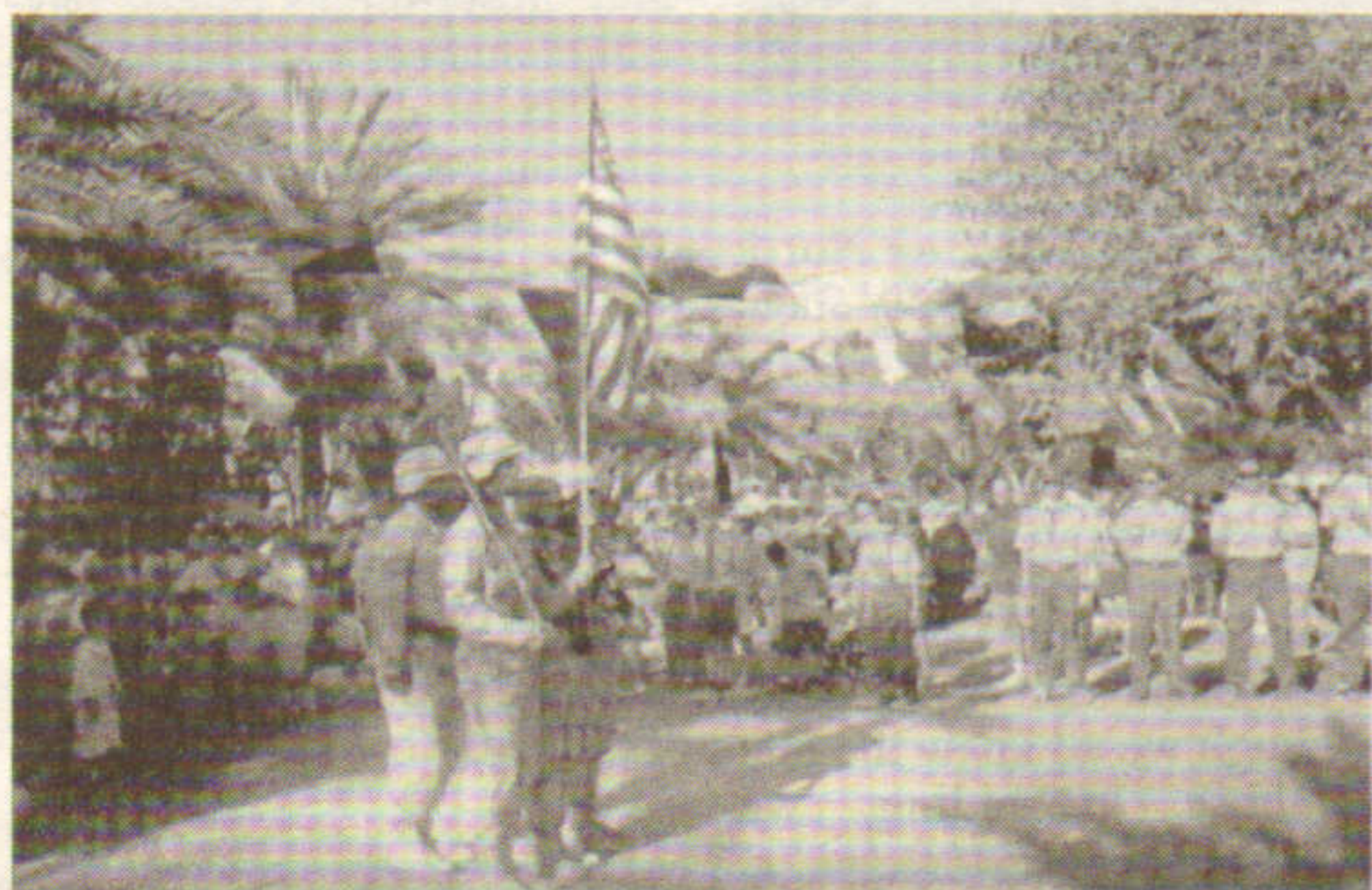
SSG Erilus was deployed to the Middle East twice; six months and 15 months. Both times she was in the thick of it in Baghdad, Iraq. She was stationed at two rapid-deployment bases Fort Benning Georgia, and currently Fort Hood, Texas.

When asked about her experience and views about being deployed she responded, "I don't agree with the troops being over there. I don't think we have a purpose over there. There have been too many lives taken, too many marriages ruined, too many families destroyed due to this war."

"There are a great deal of kids who will never know their mom or dad or in some cases both. And for what? Oil? The military has a lot of single moms that leave their newborn as early as four months to go to fight in a place that uses kids to kill. I think we (USA) need to fix our home first before we go fix other countries."

"We have homeless people in the U.S.; in fact there are a great number of those homeless personnel that are veterans. How in the world can someone fight for their country, come back paralyzed or come back with mental illness issues and be put out on the streets?"

No matter how one might feel about the Middle East, ask a soldier if you want a vivid picture of the reality of our presence over there...



Sergeant Deondra Horton leads a squadron during a holiday program for Americans in Saudi Arabia.

reason is oil, or it could be to establish a free democracy in the region. We certainly know there were no WMDs (weapons of mass destruction)! But to understand the Middle East and our unrelenting relationship with Arab cultures, one has to first start with a better understanding of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Perhaps I can be of a little help there because I spent six months in the kingdom. It was a hot, stifling experience.

I in Saudi Arabia?

As a soldier you aren't permitted to question the mission, but later in life I was able to reflect upon the reasons why so many American troops sacrificed their well-being while serving their country with pride.

I have friends and comrades who have been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. They have experienced combat first hand. My experience was a peace-keeping

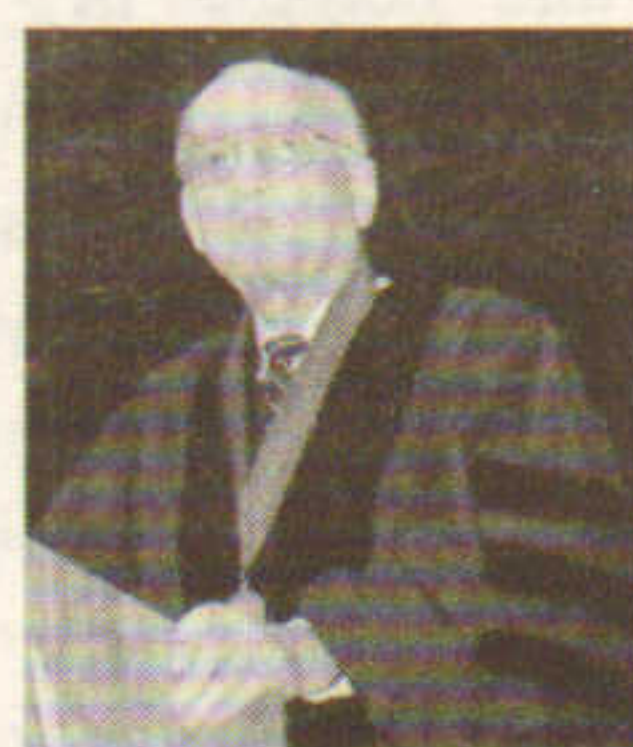
John L. Blackburn, educator, Shelton supporter and community booster, dies at 84

When Shelton State was in the planning and design stage for its new campus in the mid-90s, Dr. John L. Blackburn, who died July 3 in Tuscaloosa, was on hand for some of the seminal fundraising activities.

Before that, as a dean and vice-president at the University of Alabama and the University of Denver,

Blackburn blazed a trail of innovation and integrity. He was for, instance, integral in the process of finally integrating UA in 1963.

But that moment in history was not nearly as important as Blackburn's mentoring of generations of students, leadership he showed in a variety of roles in the UA administration, and his tireless devotion



ty.

The Blackburn Institute, which was established in 1995 in his honor and to carry

to what he saw as his civic duty both on campus and in the wider communi-

on his work, ensures that his name will never be forgotten in leadership circles, especially in Alabama. The nationally recognized institute works to develop leadership skills in students and special Blackburn Fellows and links UA to national civic, business and public service leaders across the nation.

A modest but outgoing

man who was often accompanied by his beloved wife, Gloria, who survives him, at various campus and community events, Blackburn involved himself in many civic activities following his retirement from the Capstone, most notably Rotary International, where he served in various capacities, including president.

Music, cont'd from Page 1

for this show. But the economy hit us hard this season. We were under 40 percent capacity for the other shows (combined) this season. *The Sound of Music* was over 95 percent capacity!"

Does Fitch worry that hard times spells gloom and doom for the arts? Not particularly.

"It is my belief that even in tough times, people are willing to spend money on the arts and entertainment if it provides a rewarding experience for them, Fitch said. "Interestingly enough movie ticket sales have not dipped very much this year. It is in these tough times that art sustains us."

It would be tempting to say that theatre companies must pick safe, popular shows during tough economic times, but Fitch insists she doesn't look at it that way. "We didn't pick *The Sound of Music* just because we knew it would do well at the box office. We picked this show because it is a pleasure to do and see. It is beautifully written and sends a message of 'hope,'" Fitch said.

Of course, Fitch will be the first one to admit everyone at TT must think about the bottom line as much if not more than usual. The popularity of *The Sound of Music* was definitely something she was counting on. "We hoped it would get new patrons in to see what we do and how we do it. It is a misconception to think theatres make a lot of money on these big musicals. They cost a lot of money to produce. The royalties alone cost close to \$1,000 per performance. We do them because they are worth doing and worth watching."

Though Theatre Tuscaloosa is hanging tough, that does not mean real threats do not abound. "Several major community-based theatre companies across the country closed their doors this year," Fitch lamented. "Seaside Music Theatre in



Maria and the von Trapp children bond during a thunderstorm in *The Sound of Music*.

Florida, for example.

"Most non-profits suffered set backs as we watched the economy take a nose dive. We've seen the direct result on the economy on the education system of Alabama. We've seen the impact it has taken on Shelton."

Fitch was candid in explaining some of the concrete effects her organization did experience. "Theatre Tuscaloosa did suffer financially this year. We've lost employee positions, ticket sales were down, state-awarded grants were cut 20 percent, our annual giving campaign was down. But, we managed to cut cost where we could and added additional fundraising events centered around *The Sound of Music* so that we could break even."

Fitch said she feels blessed that support is there for the theatre, even when some of the dollars aren't. "Our corporate support remained at 100 percent of what was budgeted. Individual giving dipped at the beginning of the year. However, when we asked people to give to the How do you solve a problem like Maria fund, they did and we raised an additional \$15,000. We are still struggling to make ends meet, but we've survived in the past and we will continue to press on in the future if the community is willing to support us."

"How do we do it?" Fitch asks. "We are able to provide quality entertainment because we believe that we—the community that makes up Theatre

tuscaloosa)—can!"

"Our actors are all volunteer, with the exception of the occasional guest artist. Most of our backstage crew, shop help, and front-of-house staff are students or community volunteers. We receive in-kind services and donations to help cover costs of materials, services, props, costumes, receptions, etc."

"I'll give you some examples: our brochures and print materials are designed for free by one of our board members. The upholstered chairs used in *The Sound of Music* were donated by an individual. Other props and furniture were loaned to us by UA's theatre department. The colorful banners advertising the show were donated by a company whose owner was in the show. The wedding cake for the reception was donated. The flower arrangement we have at all our opening night receptions are donated and arranged by one of our board members. The board of directors and the 'Encore Society' do a lot by raising funds and pitching in and helping in every area."

It's a Community; It's a Family Thing

"Why do we do it?" Fitch asked rhetorically. "There is something magical about the bond that forms between the artists and the audience as a story unfolds. We were there inside the von Trapp home, the rectory of a Catholic

believed what Anne Frank said: 'Despite everything, I believe people really are good at heart.' That's why we do it."

"Our goal this year is to really reach out to the Shelton community. We have always offered deeply discounted tickets to the students [\$5 and \$6 tickets] and to the faculty/staff and alumni. However, we are going even further this year. We are offering \$10 tickets [limit four to employee] to all faculty/staff/retirees. We are knocking more off of that if they become a subscriber, and subscriptions can be payroll deducted!"

"Basically we are giving Shelton folks a 50 percent discount off the regular ticket price. We want everyone at Shelton to experience the joy of the arts that is right here in their own backyard. We have lots of talented Shelton students and employees that act or work on our stage. Shelton and Theatre Tuscaloosa are family."

In Cooperation with Shelton State Community College

The Honky Tonk Angels
October 2-11, 2009

Christmas Belles
December 11-20, 2009

Radio Miscal!
January 22, 23, & 24, 2010

Love Letters
February 12, 13 & 14, 2010

Driving Miss Daisy
April 23-May 2, 2010

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
July 16-25, 2010

A Season of Colorful Characters

Ticket Office: 205.391.2277 • Website: theatretusc.com

Shel-Shots



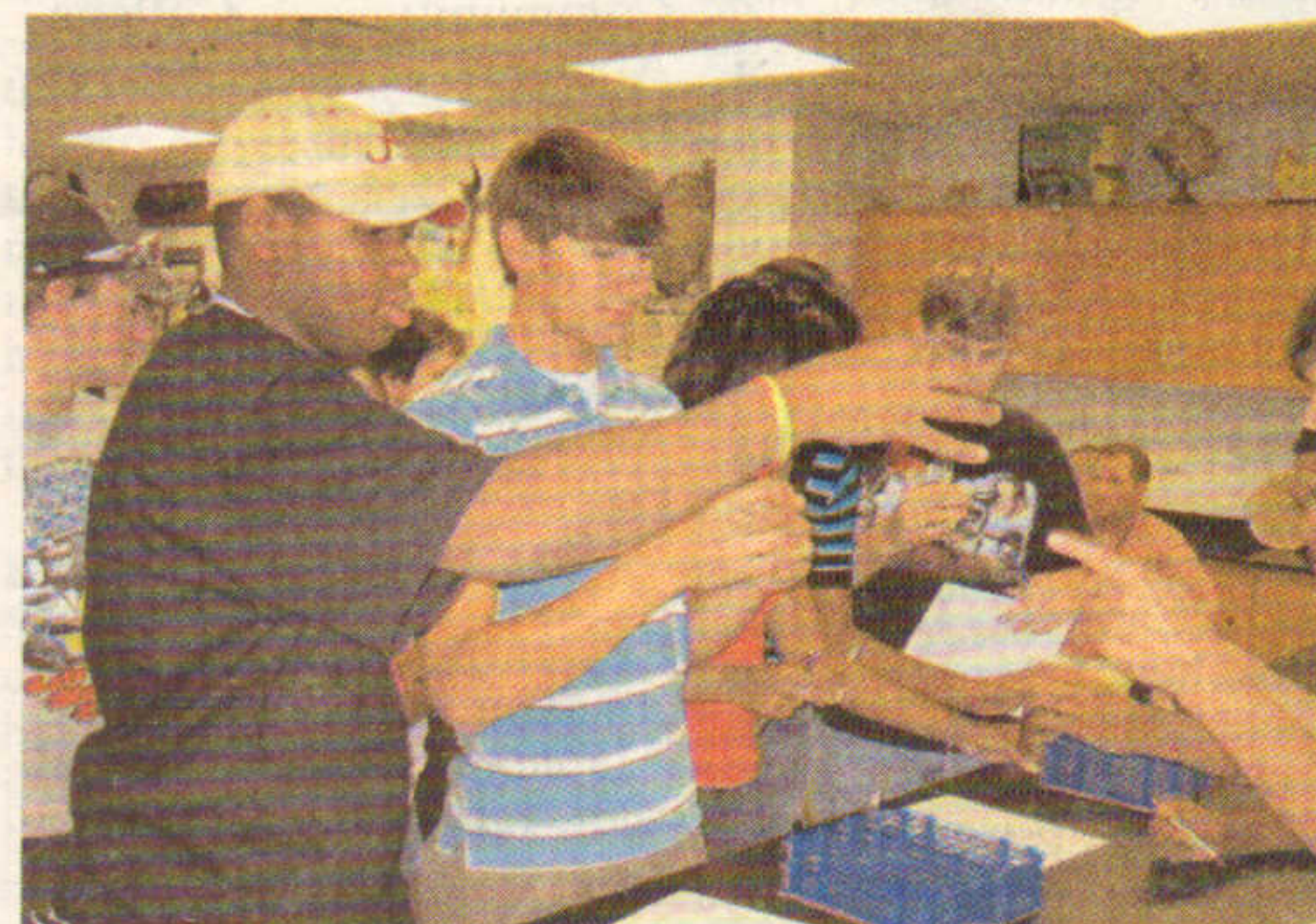
A Good Wife Knows When to Hide the Swastika During The cast party for The Sound of Music, English instructor Kitty Johnson took librari-an-actor Glen Johnson, who played a Nazi, well in hand.



Professional Engineer Alan Goode was on hand for the roll out of Shelton state's STEM Institute. Goode speaks here with college staff members, including President Mark Heinrich.



It was quite a coup for local filmmakers Ron Day (R), a Shelton State student, and his partner Brad Barber (C) to have their longest film yet, The Briefcase, selected for screening at the inaugural Montgomery Film Festival on July 18. More than 300 movie fans attended the festival at the Capri Theatre. Also enjoying the event was Cody Dearman, a Shelton State student, who acted in the film.



STEM fellows are having the time of their lives this summer in innovative classes, excursions and demonstrations. Here they actively participate in a biology experiment at the college.

Eddie L. Martin, NSF STEM project coordinator, on the Fredd campus, is heading up an Institute that many people hope will eventually produce more minority scientists and engineers.



Music department releases fall concert schedule

Every year the Shelton State music department provides a steady stream of classical music entertainment on the best-possible terms: free! Here is the recently released lineup for the fall semester.

SEPTEMBER

1 Dr. Lori Ardovino, clarinet and saxophone, Laurie Middaugh, piano, Music Faculty University of Montevallo, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

8 Bon Appetit: Dr. Susan Fleming, mezzo-soprano, Jennifer Cowgill, soprano, Kevin Chance, piano, Music Faculty, University of Alabama, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

15 Diane Boyd Schultz, flute, Kevin Chance, piano, Music Faculty, University of Alabama, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

22 Music of the Renaissance, Shelton State Music Faculty and Friends, David Cantrell, Dr. Alan Blackshear, Glinda Blackshear, Dr. Mark Brown, Syble Coats, Dr. Leslie Poss, Susan Goode, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

29 Stephen Cary, tenor, Kevin Chance, piano, Music Faculty, University of Alabama, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

OCTOBER

6 Shelton State Jazz Ensemble, Dr. Alan Blackshear, director, Bean Brown Theatre, 1:15 p.m.

13 Musicale, Voice, piano, percussion students, Shelton State Community College, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

20 Music of the Baroque Period, Shelton State Music Faculty and

Friends, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

25 Shelton Singers Sacred Concert, Lord Nelson Mass by Joseph Haydn, Glinda Blackshear and Dr. Mark Brown, directors, Covenant Presbyterian Church, 3 p.m.

27 U of A Student Pianists, Amanda Penick, teacher, University of Alabama, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

NOVEMBER

3 Shelton State Jazz Ensemble, Dr. Alan Blackshear, director, Bean Brown Theatre, 1:15 p.m.

10 Musicale, Voice, piano, percussion students, Shelton State Community College, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

17 The Capstone Quartet, University of Alabama students, Dr. Dan Sweaney, director, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

24 Contemporary Ensemble, Dr. Marvin Johnson, director, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

DECEMBER

1 Christmas Tree Lighting, Music Department Shelton State Community College, Martin Campus Atrium, 1:15 p.m.

8 Scenes from Christmas Belles, Theatre Tuscaloosa, Tina Fitch, director, Bean Brown Theatre, 1:15 p.m.

11 Shelton State Holiday Celebration of the Arts, Shelton Singers, Shelton State Jazz Ensemble, Atrium: 6 p.m., Reception and Art Show, Sandra Ray Fine Arts Center, 7 p.m. Christmas Belles, Theatre Tuscaloosa, Bean Brown Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Davis cont'd from pg. 1

In a state that has never had an African-American governor, Davis is attempting to utilize any source in order to get the advantage in a state known for its conservative leaning.

The Internet is one of these sources that has been extraordinarily vital in the political world, but a recent web poll on the Congressman's website may pose a serious setback in his campaign. On the web poll, The congressman asked Alabamians to suggest ways that Alabama could move forward in the form of a categorical vote for an upwards of 80 categories.

The results were anything but typical with the winner being simply titled "End Marijuana Prohibition" with 118 votes of around 2,300.

While the numbers may not speak much for what the state needs, when Davis refused to address the winning idea on the video posted on his website in which he thanked the contributors of the poll, some voters were outraged including former candidate for Governor in 2006 and leader of the United States Marijuana Party (USMP). In her blogs, she's blasts Davis for moving around the issues and not even

acknowledging something that his own supporters suggested.

With Davis focusing on revamping jobs and education, he has been forced to confront an issue that has been a taboo with many conservative voters in the state of Alabama. Anna Ruth Williams, Davis's campaign spokeswoman, claims that "This kind of format (web polling) is exactly why Congressman Davis is running, to let more than just a handful of Montgomery insiders talk about ideas...that includes letting people discuss ideas that the Congressman doesn't agree with."

As web polling becomes an increasingly popular means to reach voters, Davis has had to take the good with the bad with this recent incident, but may be taking the correct route according to Dr. Bill Taylor, an American Government instructor at Shelton State.

According to Taylor, for Davis to Acknowledge the results of the web poll would be "political suicide" because of the effect it could have on the majority of his supporters who are against the issue. As for turning away the voters who gave these results, Taylor went on to say that, "Most People that would go to the web poll are already going to

be backing that person, but it is important to keep the flock together without hurting the campaign. But on the other hand, web polling has proven not to be effective in gaining outside voters."

In his campaign, Davis is running for what he calls "Historic Change" in Alabama and the new generation of voters is a vital demographic to his success. When asked about Davis's web polling, Shelton State student Kuper Bank claims that, "to me it's like he wanted to know what we thought but then when he found out he disregarded it because of the same reason most politicians disregard issues, because it's not on their agenda."

When ask the same question, Shelton Student Tyler Bowers said that "I think he's concerned about the conservative mindset of people in this state and most of the conservatives are anti-marijuana and I'm sure he doesn't need the backlash from the conservative voters and doesn't want to be in deep with voters."

This whole incident is a testament to how technology and the easy accessibility of the Internet has reshaped the way candidates campaign and even how a technique such as this, which seems positive, can still yield troublesome results.

**Check in every day
with the Shelton State
Courier Facebook page.
Become "a friend"!**

With help from college colleagues, students get film ready for festival

By Christopher Bentley

Sitting at Strip Teas & Coffee, across from Publix on University Blvd., under decorative tin roofs, artificial palm trees, and soft reggae music I sat down with local film makers Ron Day and Brad Barber to discuss their entry into The

and Three-dimensional (3D) animated films will also be accepted.

The festival was held at the Capri Theatre on July 18, 2009 between the hours of 6 and 9 p. m., and ticket prices are: \$8 general admission, \$7 in advance and \$5 for Capri Theatre members.

Ron Day and Brad Barber, both 20 years old, have been making short films since 2005. Regularly passing funny messages while in class at Prattville High School, where they



Inaugural Montgomery Film Festival. I was very intrigued by the story because of my own interest in film making, and thought this was a great opportunity for me, as well as the Shelton State community, to learn about the business of short films.

This will be the first Montgomery Film Festival, but expectations are high and

meet, the idea was spun to make their first short film. Day and Barber have since made short films, mock commercials, sketch comedy shows, and recently even music videos. They took a brief seven month hiatus about a year ago but have now rejoined forces.

Barber is a Telecommunications and Film major and the University of Alabama, while Day attends Shelton State and plans to transfer to U of A for the same degree. Their latest project which they are entering into the festival is titled "The Briefcase", a 16 minute film starring both Day and Barber as opposite antiheroes' caught in a web of lies and crime wrapped around the

holdings of a specific briefcase.

The short also features Shelton State's very own Dr. Jim Kenny, media teacher and publisher of the Shelton State

Courier. When asked about the hardest part of low budget film making the answer was unanimous, "getting people to act!"

Barber and Day were very grateful for Kenny's help, as well as, co-stars



Robert LaCoste and Cody Dearman. Lacoste and Dearman are both Shelton State students interested in the media program. The two actually shot their own short satirical film about budget cuts at Shelton State for a mass communication class project.

Barber and Day shot the entire movie using a Sony HDR-HC1 HDV 1080i Handycam Camcorder and edited it using Sony Vegas Pro 9 and FXhome EffectsLab Pro. The other major problem is always finances and the fact that they only have one camera. "Camera angles are key," they said, "and only having one (camera) makes it more difficult."

Very humble about the project, Barber said their ideal situation after the festival would be, "to receive recognition for our efforts."

During the interview, the two worked well together and had a clear understanding of each other's strengths and weaknesses. Day talked about his ability to develop concepts for scripts and how

Barber fills in the details and writes the technicalities. I asked Day what was his curiosity with movies at such a young age and he said, "I would watch movies and wonder how they made it." This led to a fascination and eventually to a career choice. Sharing the role of auteur, (a filmmaker whose individual style and complete control over all elements of production give a film its personal and unique stamp) with Barber has worked out well for the two.

The pair shares the directorial and the production process pretty evenly. Talking about being in front of the camera, Day claimed, "I prefer to be behind the camera."

ity of the scripts. "I see screenplays as a different way of getting stories across," Barber told me.

The two have recently started Kross Kreek Movies, a production company whose name plays off the street Barber grew up on, Cross Creek Dr. Originally titled simply "Cross Creek Movies," the two were forced to incorporate the "Ks" due to copyright issues. For more information see, crosscreekentertainment.webs.com

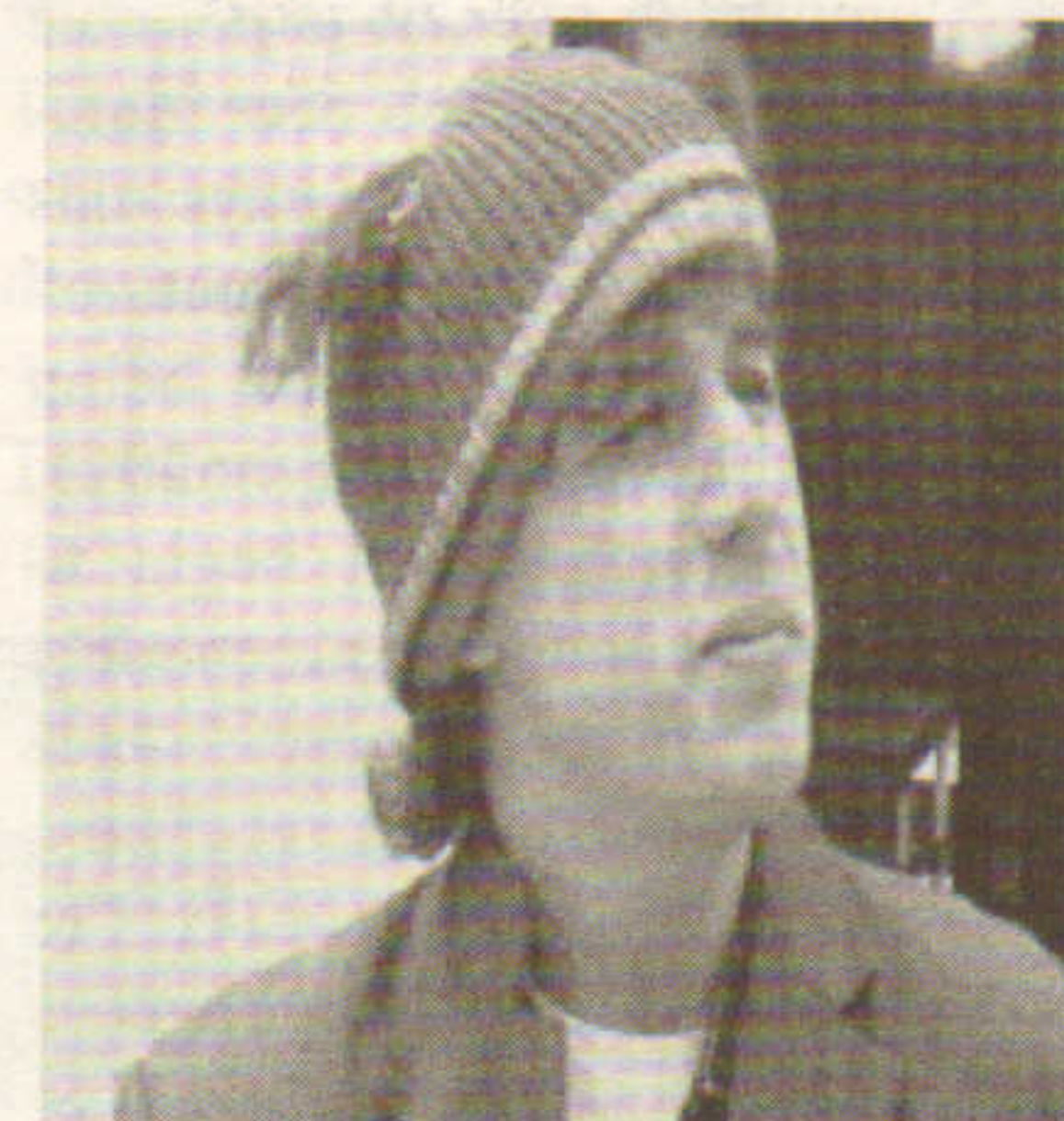
When asked for words of wisdom for any future film makers, Day was quick to say, "be patient and don't get discouraged." Barber, the slick-worded of the two, started laughing and simply said, "Always brush your teeth!"

I personally don't know if that really is the secret to movie making or not, but I certainly know that it seems to be working for them.



In stills taken from The Briefcase (clockwise from top), Ron Day tries to open the briefcase as Eric, Jim Kenny threatens people as Al, Brad Barber avoids ambush as Madsen, Cody Dearman thinks he'll enjoy a typical workday as Ted and Robert LaCoste gets knee-deep in dangerous intrigue as the homeless man.

Barber, however, enjoys both sides of the camera, and views all parts as a valuable learning experience. Barber started out writing short stories and now writes the major-



hopefully it will become an annual event. The MFF will accept all short films 20 minutes or less and any screenplays not exceeding 120 pages. Two-dimensional (2D)

The Bridge Program could be a bridge to something else entirely

By Casey L. O'Quinn

"The most fulfilling journey is not always traveled in a straight line." This quote was the motto for the Shelton State/University of Alabama Bridge Program, which several students have participated in. If the journey was indeed fulfilling for those who participated, why is the bridge program no longer in existence? This is a question that has recently raised concern with students and teachers.

The Shelton State/University of Alabama Bridge program required that students enroll in twelve hours of core classes each semester at Shelton. Upon completion of twenty-four transferable hours with a passing grade, students then transfer to UA with at least a 2.5 grade point average. The pro-

gram was helpful to those who felt the university was overwhelming because the classes at Shelton State are smaller than the classes at the university, making the experience more personal.

"The Bridge Program was exciting and helped my collegiate career significantly," said Justin Rudolph as he looked up from his Blackberry with concern. "I hate to think that so many students will miss out on such an opportunity." Rudolph is currently a transient student at the University of Alabama and Shelton State majoring in telecommunication and film. He was a student of the first class of the Shelton State/University of Alabama Bridge Program.

The first class of the bridge program was very successful, but a few students did

not choose to transfer to the University of Alabama. Although they chose to complete their college education at other institutions, the majority of the class transferred to the University of Alabama Tuscaloosa campus. Because

**The
program
helped many**

the two schools are in the same town, most students do not think twice about where to go after leaving Shelton. This pattern was not only seen throughout the students of the bridge program; an overwhelming majority of sophomores transferring from Shelton State choose to go to the University of Alabama.

Perhaps one of the reasons the bridge program did not last is because the majority of students already knew what school they wished to attend after leaving Shelton. A semester of being in the Bridge Program was more expensive than a semester enrolled in Shelton. If students already knew they would transfer to UA, it makes sense that they would not want to spend more money to transfer just one year before they would have. If the Shelton State/University of Alabama Bridge Program broadened its horizons to different schools than just the University of Alabama, interest would undoubtedly increase.

Although the University of Alabama is a highly rated school, many wonder if students are giving enough

thought into their decision before transferring. There are many prestigious schools throughout Alabama that many students do not consider transferring to, such as the University of West Alabama, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Troy University, or Stillman College, which is also located in Tuscaloosa.

Perhaps if all of these schools joined together to form one bridge program that promoted every individual school instead of just one, interest would increase not only in the program, but in each university separately, giving students more incentive to consider their next plan carefully.

The program helped many, and many students-in-the-know would greatly appreciate if it were to return.

Students worry that American economy could turn into something else entirely

By Grace Rickman

"Our economy is a scary thing," said Casey O'Quinn. O'Quinn is a junior studying journalism at Shelton State Community College. Along with O'Quinn, many young adults do not understand what the current state of the economy is today. With all of the different assumptions about where the economy is heading in the future, it is hard to pick out what news we need to be very concerned about. We all know that this recession is one of the worst in decades. But the real question is how bad is it, and when will it begin to improve?

According to U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, "the Obama administration mis-

read how bad the economy was." When creating their stimulus package in January, they planned to spend billions of dollars over a period of 18 months.

During this time, their main focus is to create more jobs. Fox News quotes Biden saying "We wanted to keep the unemployment rate under eight percent, and after 120 days has passed since the stimulus package has been created, the unemployment rate has increased to an astonishing 9.5 percent." Similar statements from Barack Obama and Biden are beginning to make young adults wonder what their future will be like in the United States.

"I hope this crisis will

not put our generation in so much debt that it will be impossible to pay off when we are older," said Loryn Gregory, a local college stu-

"I hope this crisis will not put our generation in so much debt that it will be impossible to pay off..." said Loryn Gregory.

dent "The government needs to consider this when deciding how much money to spend in the next few years."

Many Republican leaders believe that at this rate, the

economy will have a better chance on improving on its own rather than spending the large sums of money through the stimulus package.

According to Fox News, "as of mid 2009, the United States budget deficit is \$1.2 trillion, double the amount of the year before. Also, national debt has increased to \$10.6 trillion and it would cost each person \$37,000 to pay this debt off."

"These numbers are multiplying quickly and could cause major problems in the next few decades," said Chase Langefeld, another student. "I feel like other countries could start taking advantage of this weakness in our government and use it against us."

Many economists are not sure when the economy will start to improve. Biden mentioned that after the 18 months is over, it is possible to have to create a new stimulus package. He says this assumption is "premature" and with all troops being withdrawn from Iraq in 2011, the economy will begin to improve and government debt will start to decrease. Once we get out of this recession, expect an increase in taxes to help pay for the outrageous debt. But for now, the U.S. government is doing everything it can to help slow the fast pace of spending and create jobs for those unemployed.